FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-62)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

BR Witness Links Clay Shaw to Plot

Perry Russo Claims To Have Heard Plan

By F. E. SHEPHERD
Staff Representative

NEW ORLEANS — A young Baton Rougean today testified in district court here that Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, and the late David Ferrie plotted in his presence in September, 1963, to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Perry R. Russo, 25, 311 E. State St., testified in a hearing to determine whether Shaw, former director of the International Trade Mart here, should be held for trial in a conspiracy to murder the late president when he visited Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963.

Russo, under careful questioning by Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, at one point was asked to walk to the man he knew as Clem Bertrand and place his hand over his head. He walked unhesitatingly to Clay Shaw and raised his hand above Shaw's head, saying "This is the man."

Russo said he and Ferrie customarily visited each other's homes in New Orleans late at night. He said he visited Ferrie's apartment on one occasion in September, 1963 and found a party in progress, with approximately eight to 10 people present.

He said after most of the guests left he found himself alone with Ferrie, a former Eastern Air Lines pilot and former Civil Air Patrol Squadron commander here, a person he knew as "Leon" Oswald, and a third person he knew as Clem Bertrand.

This morning Russo identified pictures of the late David Ferrie; Lee Harvey Oswald, the person the Warren Commission contends assassinated President Kennedy, and Clay Shaw as those who were alone with him at the Ferrie home

Russo, who told part of his story to the State-Times on Feb. 25, 1967, then was permitted by the court to give details as to the assassination conspiracy discussed that night in Ferrie's apartment.

Russo said Ferrie paced back and forth, after explaining to the other three who Russo was.

Russo's testimony here today goes considerably beyond the events related in the interview with the Baton Rouge State-Times several weeks ago.

He said Ferrie did most of his talking to Bertrand and Oswald. He said that Ferrie pointed out the assassination attempt would have to involve three people.

Russo said Ferrie loved to use the words "triangulation of fire," and used this term repeatedly that night in discussing how the murder attempt would be made.

One 'Scapegoat'

Russo said the three agreed that one of them would have to be a "scapegoat."

At this point Garrison interrupted Russo and asked him "what do you mean by the word, 'scapegoat'?"

Russo replied, "He meant, apparently, that one man had to be sacrificed."

Later in his testimony, Russo explained that Ferrie discussed that one person would have to use diversionary tactics to permit the other two to fire their guns.

Russo said the three alleged conspirators did not mention any specific type of gun while in his presence.

Russo said the trio did talk at length about "exits." When asked by Garrison to explain what he meant by "exits" Russo said the three men apparently were discussing escape routes.

The Baton Rouge man said Ferrie suggested two escape routes, after re-emphasizing that one of the three would have to use delaying tactics in order to permit the other two to escape.

Russo said the plan was for Ferrie to pilot a plane into Mexico where it would be refueled and flown to Brazil, or the escapees would go directly to Cuba.

However, the direct flight to Cuba was abandoned as a plan because the plotters feared the Cuban anti-aircraft would shoot them down before finding out who they were.

Russo said the man he now identifies as Shaw pointed out that by the time they arrived by plane in Mexico word would have been relayed about the assassination of the President and Mexican officials would not permit them to land.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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State Times
Baton Rouge, La.

SENT BUREAU
WMD

Date: 3-14-67
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11/22/63
Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

89-69B-[illegible]

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Russo said Shaw's alternate plan was that he and Ferrie "be in the public eye" on the day of the assassination so as to not cast suspicion on themselves.

He said they went so far as to try and arrange for one of them to try to make a speech at Southeastern State College in Hammond on the day of the assassination.

He said Shaw said he might go on a business trip for his company to the west coast on that day.

Testimony by Russo showed he was a student at Tulane and Loyola between 1960 and 1964 and became very friendly with Ferrie during that time. Russo is a native of New Orleans, and a graduate of McDonough High School.

Earlier Garrison had placed two New Orleans police officers and a private photographer on the witness stand to apparently lay the groundwork for a move to prove that Shaw, who was arrested last week, and Ferrie met in Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana Ave. Pkway. in the fall of 1963 to enter into an assassination conspiracy.

The hearing at which Russo testified today was one requested by the district attorney himself, in order to gain a court order to hold Shaw for trial on the assassination conspiracy charge.

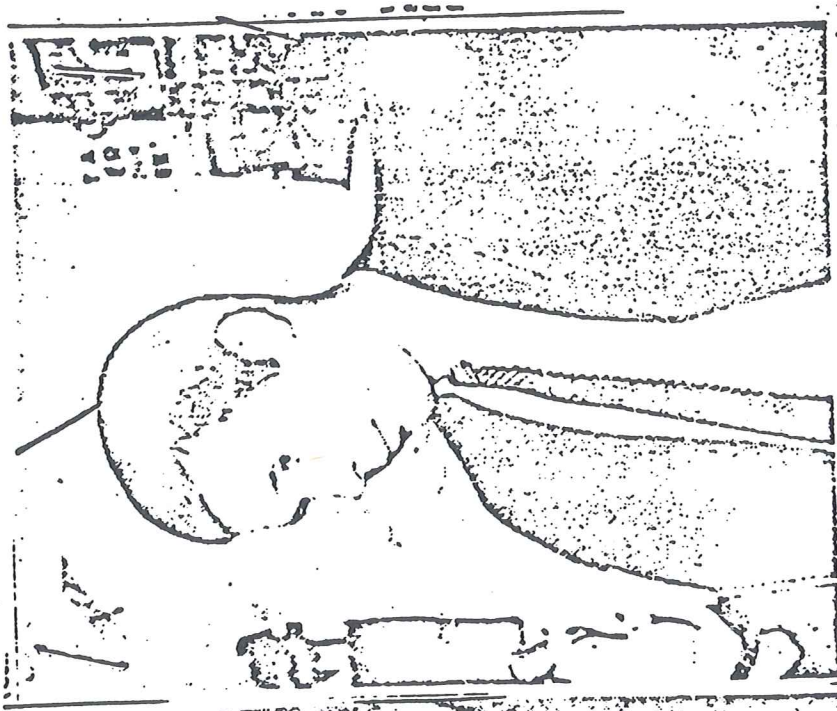
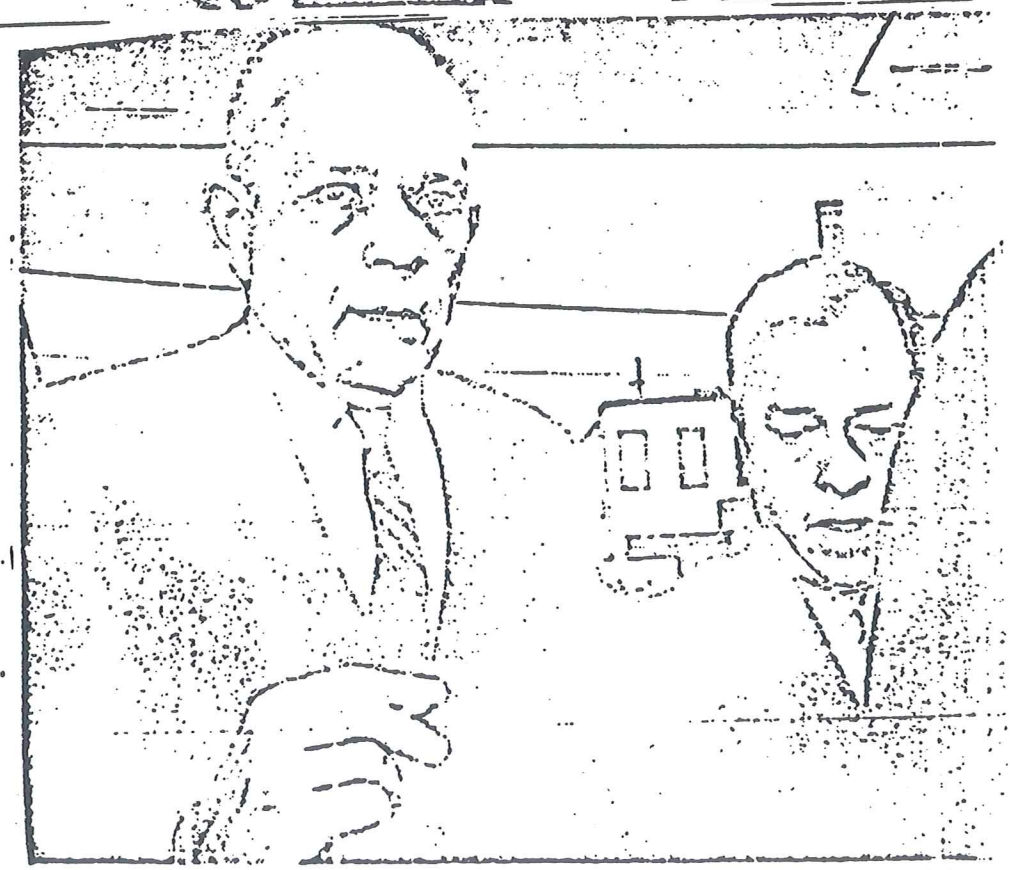


FIGURE IN ASSASSINATION PROBE — Perry Raymond Russo, 25, Baton Rouge insurance salesman, claims he once knew David W. Ferrie, described by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a principal figure in his investigation of the Kennedy assassination. Ferrie died Feb. 22. Russo first told his story to the State-Times in Baton Rouge, and then volunteered his information to the New Orleans district attorney. He said he knew Ferrie while attending college in New Orleans.
—AP wirephoto



SHAW ARRIVES FOR HEARING — Clay Shaw, left, who has been booked with conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, arrives for a preliminary hearing with his attorney, Edward Wegmann, in New Orleans today. The hearing will determine if Shaw will have to stand trial for the crime.
—AP wirephoto